

Terrible Beauty: A History of Ireland

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EARLY IRELAND, 1169 - 1800

Christianity was brought to Ireland in the 5th century with devoted people like St. Patrick, St. Brigid of Kildare, and St. Columba of Iona.

The Norman invasion of Ireland in May 1169 when Cambro-Normans and Anglo-Normans landed in Ireland at the request of Dermot MacMurragh, the deposed King of Leinster.

Over the next few centuries, Cambro and Anglo-Normans intermarried with the native Irish and within a couple of generations there were the Hiberno-Normans. These Hiberno-Normans were said to be "more Irish than the Irish themselves."

The Statutes of Kilkenny were a series of thirty-five acts passed at Kilkenny in 1366. The statutes "forbade the intermarriage between the native Irish and the native English, the English fostering of Irish children, the English adoption of Irish children and use of Irish names and dress."

Conflicts:

- 1534-1537 Rebellion of Silken Thomas FitzGerald, 10th Earl of Kildare
- 1579-1583 Second Desmond Rebellion of James FitzMaurice FitzGerald of the House of Desmond
- 1594-1603 The Nine Years War of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone and Red Hugh O'Donnell of Tyrconnell
- 1641 Irish Rebellion of 1641 led by Phelim Roe O'Neill of Kinard of the Catholic Confederation
- 1690 Battle of the Boyne and the defeat of the forces of the deposed King James II of England and Ireland by those of King William III, husband of Queen Mary II, daughter of James II.

Plantations:

- Early plantations (1556–1576)
- Munster Plantation (1586 onwards) as a result of the Desmond Rebellions
- Ulster Plantation (1606 onwards) as a result of the Nine Years War
- Later plantations (1610–1641)
 - Wexford (1610) – lands confiscated from the MacMurrough- Kavanagh clan
 - Wicklow (1630s)
- Cromwellian land confiscation (1652) "Over 12,000 veterans of the New Model Army were awarded land in Ireland in place of their wages due" and up to 7,500 soldiers settled there.

1798 Rebellion

The rebellion started in the early morning of 24 May 1798 with an attack by rebels on the Prosperous Barracks in County Kildare.

Atrocities were committed in all theatres of engagement and throughout the rebellion.

The rebellion had a significant effect on the Irish diaspora. Almost 500 rebels were sent to Australia as convicts. At least 2,000 went to America. Britain abolished the Irish Parliament and in 1801 the Union of Great Britain and Ireland was created.

1798 Claimants and Surrenders is a list of people who made claims to the government for losses they suffered during the fighting and rebellion.

BEFORE AND AFTER THE GREAT IRISH FAMINE

An Act for the Union of Great Britain and Ireland was passed in both the British and Irish Parliaments in 1800 and went into effect on 1 January 1801.

British Parliament passed the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 which brought Catholic emancipation.

The Tithe War was resistance to the tithes that were collected between 1831 and 1836 on behalf of the state church, the Church of Ireland.

Tithe Applotment Books and Griffiths Valuation records help locate and identify people in the early and middle 19th century.

The Great Famine or, Great Hunger, was a period of blight and famine in Ireland from 1845 to 1849. During the famine, about 1 million people died and 1 million more left the country in a worldwide diaspora, causing the country's population to fall by 20%–25%.

The Irish Republican Brotherhood, founded in Dublin in 1858, and the Fenian Brotherhood, founded in the United States in 1865, combined in the 1867 Fenian rising in various parts of Ireland as well as an attempt to take over Dublin. The rising failed.

There were attempts to pass Home Rule bills. The first Home Rule Bill in was 1886 and the second Home Rule Bill was in 1893.

IRISH INDEPENDENCE, CIVIL WAR, AND THE CELTIC TIGER

1901 and 1911 are the two full censuses for Ireland available to researchers.

The Easter Rising or rebellion began on Monday, 24 April 1916. The rising lasted for six days and was led by the Irish Republican Brotherhood. It was put down by thousands of British troops brought in to fight the rebels.

Of the 485 people killed in the Easter Rising, 260 were civilians, 143 were British military and police personnel, and 82 were Irish rebels, including 16 rebels executed for their roles in the Rising. More than 2,600 people were wounded.

The Irish War of Independence or Anglo-Irish War was a guerrilla war fought in Ireland between 1919 and 1921.

A ceasefire began on 11 July 1921 and the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed on 6 December 1921.

The Irish Civil War began on 28 June 1922 when Michael Collins and the Free State government bombarded the Anti-Treaty IRA at the Four Courts. This was a disastrous event for genealogists because so many important records were lost.

The civil war lasted 28 June 1922 to 24 May 1923 and around 2,000 people were killed.

On 29 December 1939, the country of Éire replaced the Irish Free State and in 1948 adopted the name Republic of Ireland to go along with Éire.

The Republic of Ireland Act abolished the statutory functions of the British monarch in Ireland on 18 April 1949, thus officially cutting all governmental ties with Britain after about 780 years of English control.

The Troubles were a period of conflict in Northern Ireland that lasted from the late 1960s to the Belfast Agreement of 1998. More than 3,500 people were killed during the thirty-year conflict which was more political and nationalistic than religious in nature.

The Republic of Ireland's economy between the mid-1990s to the late 2000s was called the Celtic Tiger because of the great economic success to what previously had been a poor country.